

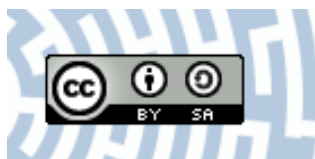


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Title: Professor Zbigniew Oniszczyk (1955-2020)

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**PROFESSOR ZBIGNIEW ONISZCZYK
(1955–2020)**

Professor Zbigniew Oniszczyk studied political science at the University of Silesia in Katowice. He obtained his master's degree in 1980. He joined the Department of Journalism at the Institute of Political Sciences at the University of Silesia in 1981, and in 1988 he defended his doctoral dissertation. From the very beginning, he was interested in foreign media systems. Thanks to his excellent command of the German language, in the 1990s he started researching the changes in the Austrian and German media. His

research interests focused on media systems and media policy, as well as the relationship between the media and politics. He was a scholarship holder of the German Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Institute of Journalism at the University of Salzburg. He was awarded the habilitation degree on April 29, 2003. His habilitation thesis concerned the post-war media policy of the federal government in Germany (*Kształtowanie się polityki medialnej (Medienpolitik) rządu RFN w latach 1949–1989*). From 2004 he belonged to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Publizistik und Kommunikationswissenschaft. From 2008, he was a member of the editorial board of the *Central European Journal of Communication*. He was also one of the founders of the Polish Communication Association (PTKS). First, he was the treasurer of PTKS, and in 2013 he became its vice president. In 2019, he received the honorary membership of PTKS. He was also a member of the KRRiT competition jury of the Dr. Paweł Stępka Award (2017–2018). He also chaired the DOCTORATE contest from 2008 to 2019. In 2012, he also became the vice-president of the Katowice branch of the Polish Political Science Association. Since 2012 he was a member of the International Project CultMedia (International Network on Cultural Diversity and New Media), launched in 2002. He was awarded three times by the Rector of the University of Silesia in Katowice for his scientific work (2004, 2007, 2017).

As a researcher, he focused primarily on the theoretical aspects of the functioning of media systems. He was one of the first Polish media experts to consider the mediatization of the public sphere, especially politics. Thanks to his cooperation with German university centers his publications were often of a comparative nature. In 2014, he became the head of the Department of International Communication and Media Systems at the Institute of Political Science and

Journalism at the University of Silesia in Katowice. He initiated a Silesian accent in European research on the connections between media and politics. Professor Oniszczyk's last great research project was a grant under the OPUS 10 competition, financed by the National Science Center. In 2016–2020, he led a team that analyzed the relations between media and political elites in Poland. The background of the research was the German experience, which had previously been the subject of Professor Oniszczyk's interest. The project was finalized just before the Professor's death. At the beginning of 2020, during his illness, a book was published entitled *The Elites of the Media versus the Elites of Politics in Poland*, collecting the results of the team's research: a content analysis of the Polish opinion press, in-depth interviews with politicians and journalists, and surveys among representatives of both environments. The community of media researchers will surely remember him as a committed scientist, an outstanding expert in German media, an excellent theorist who can transfer interesting trends in world science to Poland. His publications had a huge impact on the new generation of media researchers in Poland, indicating the most important directions in world research.

Professor Zbigniew Oniszczyk was a man with an extraordinary sense of humor, open and ready for discussion. He could listen and at the same time attracted attention with his knowledge and scientific passion. We lost not only a great scientist, but also a friendly, open-minded and energetic colleague and friend.

Marek Jachimowski, Mariusz Kolczyński & Dagmara Głuszek-Szafraniec

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